



News Release



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U.S. Army's Chief Information Officer Speaks at AFCEA TechNet Conference on Biometrics Panel

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 12, 2002 – LTG Peter M. CuvIELlo, chief information officer for the U.S. Army, spoke today at the AFCEA TechNet Conference at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. LTG CuvIELlo participated in the “Biometrics: Integration of Technologies for Information Security” panel, which was moderated by the National Security Agency’s Jeff Dunn, co-chair Biometric Consortium.

Biometrics refers to the technologies that are used to identify people by unique biological characteristics such as the shape of their faces, their fingerprints, their voice, and the pattern of their irises. The events of September 11 changed the way this country and the world look at biometric products and technology. The panel LTG CuvIELlo served on reviewed government and industry activities in biometrics, including a description of the Biometrics Consortium and the DoD Biometrics Management Office. Ongoing efforts in the U.S., the pros and cons of biometric security options for Homeland Security, the practical concerns of integrating biometrics, and international standards were also discussed.

“DoD has developed a roadmap for an enterprise solution for biometrics,” said LTG CuvIELlo. “We are working to guarantee identity assurance to personnel who have access to critical systems in secure facilities. To successfully do this, we must make sure that both DoD and the biometrics industry know what the approved program is and work together to create an effective enterprise solution.”

The DoD biometrics program was established in July 2000 as a result of Public Law 106-246. The BMO envisions that biometrics will be the universally empowering technology that ensures the right person with the right privileges has access, physical and/or network, at the right time to support warfighting dominance.

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The Department of Defense Biometrics Management Office is the central entity within the DoD responsible for leading, consolidating and coordinating the development, adoption and institutionalization of biometric technologies in Combatant Commands, Services and Agencies, to enhance Joint Service interoperability and warfighter operational effectiveness.